

ious phases of education. These books have been classified and catalogued for the use of the staff, but may be borrowed by teachers, principals, superintendents, and school officials in Richmond or elsewhere in Virginia. The library contains a card catalog, vertical file, book truck, magazine rack, book-ends, shelf labels and pamphlet boxes. It is used as a model library and is frequently visited by principals and school superintendents.

Seventy-six high schools in twenty-seven counties and thirteen cities were visited by Miss Brown during the year. Intensive organization work was done in school libraries in Appomattox, Pittsylvania, Brunswick, Greensville, Southampton, and Nansemond counties. Actual work was done in the classification of books; organization of student assistant groups; weeding out dead materials; installation of adequate charging systems and introduction of plans for library publicity of reading interests. Suggestions for library development were given to the school librarian, principal and division superintendent. A letter restating the suggestions was sent to the librarian following each visit.

During this year the supervisor will help to make the library a working laboratory for the entire school; to make the material in the library fit the curriculum of the school; to make the library a social unit for training good citizens; to encourage the teacher-librarians to stimulate the reading interests of school children; to install in the school library an adequate charging system; to organize the student assistant group to provide lessons to teach the use of books and libraries; to weed out undesirable books; to suggest books for future purchases; and to suggest a method of classification.

True hope is swift and flies with swallows' wings,
Kings it makes gods, and meaner creatures
Kings.—*Shakespeare*.

THE READING TABLE

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARIES. Twelfth Yearbook of the Department of Elementary School Principals, National Education Association. Edited by Helen B. Shove, Aaron Kline, and John S. Thomas. Washington, D. C.; National Education Association. 1933. Pp. 576. \$2.00.

The reader of this excellent yearbook concludes from its abundance of evidence that "the school library is the center of a modern program of education." Its ten chapters present studies by fifty specialists in the field of elementary education, along with library floor plans, reading lists, book-lists, etc., all carefully organized and summarized, section by section. Ably edited, the yearbook makes it easy for every elementary school principal to survey and investigate the whole subject of the library. He will thus keep abreast of his times, for "the most far-reaching and important movement in elementary education today lies in the establishment of libraries and the development of a technic for the practical use of them."

Too many libraries and teachers, it is pointed out, "have a background of literature insufficient to enable them to distinguish the tawdry from the genuine, the sentimental from the sincere, pseudo-scientific statements from the scientifically accurate. The successful librarian must know books and be interested in them, not only children's books, but books in general."

"There is no excuse," the yearbook states, "for not having some kind of library. Books are not costly today, parents are ready to help, and children long for activities which will challenge their ingenuity. One thing chiefly is lacking where libraries do not exist—that is leadership. An opportunity to serve childhood through an enriched education beckons to the teachers, librarians, and principals of America's elementary schools."

C. T. L.

PICTURESQUE WORD ORIGINS. Springfield, Mass.: G. & C. Merriam Company. 1933. Pp. 134. \$1.50.

Here are included the "life-stories" of 163 words offered by the publishers of the Webster dictionaries to demonstrate "the extraordinary interest of a subject that has always been hidden behind the forbidding name *etymology*." (They might have included this word and shown that it, too, has an interesting origin that makes it seem less forbidding!)

True—that is, original—meanings are shown of such words as *accurate* (done with care), *ambition* (a going about for votes), *astonish* (thunder-struck), *ballot* (little ball), *bombastic* (stuffed with cotton), *recalcitrant* (like a kicking mule), and *symposium* (a drinking party).

The forty-five full page drawings in this book have been used in the recent advertisements of Webster dictionaries. The book is especially useful for high school libraries. Unfortunately, no table of contents is given, although the words are arranged alphabetically.

VIRGINIA: ECONOMIC AND CIVIC. Edited by R. Lee Humbert and Clarence W. Newman. Richmond: Whittet and Shepperson. 1933. Pp. 427. \$4.00.

Sixteen Virginians wrote the material in this book. It was prepared in the Virginia Polytechnic Institute under the direction of R. L. Humbert and in collaboration with Clarence W. Newman, of the Virginia State Chamber of Commerce, in Richmond.

The publication has an abundance of desirable characteristics. Bringing together much recent information regarding the resources and industries of the state, it will make a helpful and reliable reference book. Statistics are presented with discussions, thus affording applied information. Superficial observations are avoided: the volume is thorough-going and presents any decreases along with many increases in the different kinds of production. The book is technically sound, yet it is written so as to

interest the lay reader. It does not agitate changing all present arrangements within the state, but many suggestions are given looking to improvements which deserve encouragement.

Each chapter deserves comment, but this review can mention only two of them. The chapter entitled "Water Supplies and Waste Disposal" gives specific information regarding the quantity and quality of public water supplies in various parts of the state and mentions the industrial influences associated with the two factors mentioned in the chapter title. The chapter on Education tells what has been done, reports what improvements are being undertaken, and frankly mentions some shortcomings. Each school library in the state should include this authoritative reference book.

RAUS M. HANSON

NEWS OF THE COLLEGE

The hockey team attended the Virginia Hockey Association's tournament at Westhampton November 11. Westhampton defeated them 2-0, as did William and Mary also. But the second team defeated an et-cetera team 5-1, and later the varsity held Farmville to a 0-0 tie. Three girls were chosen for the All-State team: Douglas McDonald, of Scotts, N. C.; Edith Todd, of Richmond; Joyce Lea, of Massies Mill. At Sweetbriar on November 4 the local team had been defeated 4 to 0.

The senior class held its class day on November 1. Dr. Duke and Dr. Converse officially gowned the class. The seniors wore their academic costumes all day. Harrison Hall was decorated in purple and white, the class colors. A reception was held that night. The seniors also elected a class mirror, similar to the one in the annual every year. It was as follows: most talented, Sarah Lemmon, Marietta, Ga.; best all-round, Hilda Hisey, Edinburg; most athletic, Marietta Melson, Machipongo; most popular, Hilda Hisey, Edinburg;